

Appl. No. 10/544,155
Amdt. dated January 15, 2008
Reply to Office Action of October 16, 2007
Attorney Docket 18120

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-22 are currently pending for examination. Claims 1-11 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 12 and 14-22 are currently amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indication that claims 13-19, 21 and 22 -28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph rejections. Claim 20 is only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form and should now be allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-22 are objected to because of minor informalities. These informalities have been corrected by amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Removal of these objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13 -19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 12 which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 13 is amended to remove the phrase "possibly", which rendered the claim indefinite. Claims 14-19, 21 and 22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 12. Accordingly, allowance of claims 14-19, 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kamide et al. (4,904,161). Claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claims 14-19 and 21-22 depend from claim 12 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12. Accordingly, allowance of claims 12, 14-19 and 21-22 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is submitted that claims 12 and 14-22 define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Examiner is authorized to charge all fees due in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 14-0780. The Examiner is encouraged to phone the attorney listed below if the Examiner believes a phone conference would accelerate prosecution of the application. In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Sheldrake
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 60,411
Date: January 15, 2008

(717) 355-4954 Phone
(717) 355-3107 Fax